

book comprising a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual;
means for storing a set of individual data, including address data, for each of
said individuals listed in each subscriber address book for said plurality of
subscribers; and

means, responsive to a change in a set of said individual data associated with
an identified individual, for propagating said change to ones of said plurality of
subscriber address books which contain an entry corresponding to said identified
individual.

2. The data management system of claim 1 wherein said means for
propagating comprises:

means for storing data to delimit which ones of said address books, which
contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual, are authorized to receive
said change to said individual data.

3. The data management system of claim 2 wherein said means for
propagating further comprises:

means for defining groups of address books, which contain an entry
corresponding to said identified individual, that are authorized to receive said change
to said individual data.

4. The data management system of claim 1 wherein said individual
address data is divided into a plurality of access levels, said means for propagating
comprises:

means for storing access level data to delimit which ones of said said individual
data are authorized to receive said change to said individual data.

5. The data management system of claim 4 wherein said means for
propagating further comprises:

means for defining groups of address books, which contain an entry

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corresponding to said identified individual, that are authorized to receive said change to said individual data.

6. The data management system of claim 1 further comprising:
means for retrieving data from a public database to verify a set of individual data associated with an identified individual.

7. The data management system of claim 6 further comprising:
means, responsive to said means for retrieving identifying a change in data in said individual data associated with an identified individual, for activating said means for propagating.

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SUB B27 8. A method of operating a data management system for automatically maintaining address information in a plurality of [user] subscriber address books, comprising the steps of:

storing, for each of a plurality of subscribers, a subscriber address book comprising a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual;

storing a set of individual address data, including data, for each of said individuals listed in each subscriber address book for said plurality of subscribers; and

propagating, in response to a change in a set of said individual data associated with an identified individual, said change to ones of said plurality of subscriber address books which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual.

9. The method of operating a data management system of claim 8 wherein said step of propagating comprises:

storing data to delimit which ones of said address books, which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual, are authorized to receive said change to said individual data.

10. The method of operating a data management system of claim 9 wherein

said step of propagating further comprises:

defining groups of address books, which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual, that are authorized to receive said change to said individual data.

11. The method of operating a data management system of claim 8 wherein said individual address data is divided into a plurality of access levels, said step of propagating comprises:

storing access level data to delimit which ones of said said individual data are authorized to receive said change to said individual data.

12. The method of operating a data management system of claim 11 wherein said step of propagating further comprises:

defining groups of address books, which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual, that are authorized to receive said change to said individual data.

13. The method of operating a data management system of claim 8 further comprising the step of:

retrieving data from a public database to verify a set of individual data associated with an identified individual.

14. The method of operating a data management system of claim 13 further comprising:

activating, in response to said step of retrieving identifying a change in data in said individual data associated with an identified individual, said step of propagating.

SUB B37 15. A data management system for automatically maintaining user data among a plurality of communities, each of which contains a plurality of members, comprising:

means for storing, for each of a plurality of communities, community membership data comprising a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a

named individual who is a member of said community;
means for storing a set of individual data for each of said individuals listed as a member in each community for said plurality of communities;
means for providing a user with access to a set of said individual data of an identified individual who is a member of a same community as said user; and
means, responsive to a change in individual data associated with said identified individual, for propagating said change to all of said plurality of communities in which said individual is a member.

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17. The data management system of claim 15 further comprising:
means for defining a set of data sharing permissions, each of which define access by members of a community to a subset of the member's data; and
means for sharing said individual data among predetermined members of each community who are identified by said set of permissions.

18. The data management system of claim 15 further comprising:
means for retrieving data from a public database to verify a set of individual data associated with an identified individual.

19. The data management system of claim 18 further comprising:
means, responsive to said means for retrieving identifying a change in data in said set of individual data associated with an identified individual, for activating said means for propagating.

20. The data management system of claim 17 further comprising:
means, responsive to a set of individual data of an identified individual, for generating at least one gift giving selection for said identified individual.

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SUB B4

24. A method of operating a data management system for automatically maintaining user data among a plurality of communities, each of which contains a plurality of members, comprising the steps of:

storing, for each of a plurality of communities, community membership data comprising a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual who is a member of said community;

storing a set of individual data for each of said individuals listed as a member in each community for said plurality of communities;

providing a user with access to a set of said individual data of an identified individual who is a member of a same community as said user; and

propagating, in response to a change in individual data associated with said identified individual, said change to all of said plurality of communities in which said individual is a member.

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26. The method of operating a data management system of claim 24 further comprising the steps of:

defining a set of data sharing permissions, each of which define access by members of a community to a subset of the member's data; and

sharing said individual data among predetermined members of each community who are identified by said set of permissions.

27. The method of operating a data management system of claim 24 further comprising the step of:

retrieving data from a public database to verify a set of individual data associated with an identified individual.

28. The method of operating a data management system of claim 27 further comprising the step of:

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activating, in response to said step of retrieving identifying a change in data in said set of individual data associated with an identified individual, for said step of propagating.

29. The method of operating a data management system of claim 26 further comprising the step of:

generating, in response to a set of individual data of an identified individual, at least one gift giving selection for said identified individual.

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